



PATENT

Docket No. 1232-4532

#13/c
1209

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hiroyuki SHINBATA

Serial No.: 09/287,406 Group Art Unit: 2621

Filed: April 6, 1999 Examiner: B. Choobin

For: **IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD APPARATUS AND
STORAGE MEDIUM FOR RECOGNITION OF
IRRADIATION AREA**

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 11, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph from page 1, line 6 through page 1, line 9, as follows:

C1
The present invention relates to an image processing method, an image processing apparatus, and a storage medium using second order differences for recognition of an irradiation field.

Please rewrite the paragraph from page 4, line 21 through page 4, line 23, as follows:

C2
a step of calculating a second order difference value of density values representing the respective areas in the plurality of areas; and

Please rewrite the paragraph from page 6, line 8 through page 6, line 10, as follows: